

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-6 are pending in this National Stage application. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and new claim 6 has been added to depend from claim 2. Claim 4 has also been amended. The entire priority claim has been recited. No new matter has been added.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



THOMAS P. HILLIARD
Reg. No. 40330
Tel. No. 703.770.7591
Customer No. 00909

Date: August 24, 2006
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900